

Curriculum Vitae / Project Lead Profile

Mr. Bernard Omondi Oketch
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Professional Profile

Mr. Bernard Omondi Oketch is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Beyond Woodwork & Craft PBO, the lead implementing organization for the Manga–Karadolo Wetland Habitat Restoration and Community Stewardship Initiative. He is an accomplished governance, risk management, and institutional development professional with over 16 years of senior-level experience spanning enterprise risk management, internal controls, corporate governance, business continuity, compliance, climate/ESG risk, and programme leadership. His work combines strong technical and institutional capability with a practical commitment to community-rooted development, environmental stewardship, and inclusive livelihood creation.

Bernard currently serves as Director of Risk at Shelter Afrique Development Bank, where he leads enterprise-wide risk oversight and supports the institution's Board Audit & Risk Committee. His responsibilities include ERM framework implementation, risk appetite design, policy development, stress testing, compliance oversight, climate/ESG risk integration, risk training, and institutional reporting. He also participates in senior management and oversight committees and supports engagement with credit rating agencies including Moody's, GCR, Agosto, and Bloomfield.

Before this, he served as Head of Enterprise Risk Management & Compliance at Shelter Afrique from March 2019 to December 2024, where he led the strengthening of risk governance systems, internal controls, compliance structures, and enterprise-wide reporting processes. Earlier, he served as Senior Risk Manager at Co-operative Bank of Kenya from April 2016 to February 2019, with responsibility for credit risk, market risk, governance risk, business continuity, and ICAAP.

Bernard's earlier professional formation was at Deloitte & Touche East Africa, where he worked from 2007 to 2016, progressing from Business Analyst to Risk Advisory Manager. In this period he led and contributed to assignments in enterprise risk management, internal audit, governance, internal controls, business continuity planning, information systems audit, process reengineering, and training.

Education and Professional Development

Bernard holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA) in Strategic Management from the University of Nairobi and a Bachelor of Business Commerce & Information Technology (BBIT) from Strathmore University, where he graduated with First Class

Honours. He is also trained as an ISO 9001:2015 QMS Lead Auditor through Bureau Veritas Certification.

His professional memberships include the Global Association of Risk Professionals (GARP). He serves as a member of the Investment Committee of the Housing Solution Fund, Nigeria, reflecting his wider governance and advisory exposure.

Relevant Experience for The Project

Although Bernard's formal career has been rooted in governance, risk, and institutional systems, his practical work outside formal employment demonstrates a strong commitment to community-based development and locally grounded environmental action. He is the architect of the broader Relim ecosystem, a cluster of social and enterprise-linked community assets that combine practical service delivery with social impact, including youth engagement, vocational skills pathways, and local microenterprise support. This experience has helped him develop a model that links governance discipline, community participation, and livelihood opportunity.

He founded Beyond Woodwork & Craft PBO to create equitable, skills-based pathways into dignified work for youth, women, and vulnerable groups, and has since expanded this vision into the field of climate resilience, wetland restoration, and green livelihoods.

In the Manga–Karadolo context, Bernard has led the development of the wetland initiative through local consultation, problem analysis, programme design, and integration of environmental restoration with community stewardship and sustainable livelihoods. The project reflects his ability to translate complex systems thinking into practical, locally rooted solutions.

His regional and technical exposure further strengthens his suitability to lead this work. Across his consulting and professional career, Bernard has worked in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Zambia, and Côte d'Ivoire. His assignments have included risk-based audits, governance reviews, internal audit, business continuity planning, training, and operational systems strengthening for banks, regulators, telecoms, pension funds, and public institutions. These include work for Centenary Bank, Kenya Power, Kenya Women Finance Trust, Family Bank, National Microfinance Bank, CRDB, Bank of Tanzania, Vodacom, Coca-Cola Sabco, KENGEN, NSSF, and the African Union Commission, among others.